

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/715,435

Examiner

Behrooz Senfi

Applicant(s)

BOON ET AL.

Art Unit

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/21/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-8, 10, 12, 14 and 16, renumbered as 1-8.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

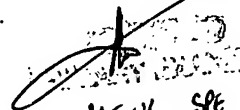
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date See Continuation Sheet
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


ACTING SPE 8/31/07

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date: 4/6/05,9/14/05,12/5/05,5/3/07.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of 5 – 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 in the reply filed on 06/21/2007 is acknowledged.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Radashi Horie (Reg. No. 40,437) on 8/31/2007.

The present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly non-elected claims 1 – 4, 9, 11, 13 and 15 withdrawn without traverse have been canceled, See MPEP § 8.07.

In claim 10;

Please change the claim language from “a video decoding program for letting a computer execute processing associated with the video decoding method as set forth in claim 5” to “a video decoding program stored in the computer readable medium for causing the computer to execute processing associated with the video decoding method as set forth in claim 5”.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 5 – 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16, renumbered as 1 - 8 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of the record fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations "a video decoding method for video decoding apparatus to decode compression-encoded data of a moving picture partitioned into a plurality of regions, the video decoding method comprising: a step of effecting input of compression-encoded data generated from each of images constituting a moving picture, by partitioning the image into multiple regions and implementing compression encoding thereof;

a step of determining an encoding mode of each image from the compression-encoded data;

a step of determining a region structural unit for partitioning the image into multiple regions, based on the encoding mode;

a step of acquiring region information about the regions from the compression-encoded data;

a step of defining the regions, based on the region structural unit and the region information;

a step of decoding the compression-encoded data included in the regions thus defined, in encoding units to generate regenerated data in encoding units; and

a step of constructing a regenerated image from the regenerated data in encoding units in accordance with the encoding mode" as specifies in the claim and shown in fig. 7 of present application.

Claims 6 – 8, 10 and 14, renumbered as 2 – 6 are allowed with respect to dependency to allowable independent claim 5.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Behrooz Senfi whose telephone number is 571-272-7339. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-3:00.

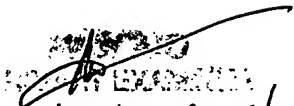
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on 571-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/715,435
Art Unit: 2621

Page 5

Behrooz Senfi
Examiner
Art Unit 2621


ACTING SPE 8/31/07